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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,820	09/17/2003	Tsutomu Ishii	117197	4055

25944 7590 09/06/2006

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EXAMINER

XIAO, KE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,820

Applicant(s)

ISHII ET AL.

Examiner

Ke Xiao

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/17/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-16, drawn to Group I, classified in class 345, subclass 4.
- II. Claims 17-30, drawn to Group II, classified in class 345, subclass 1.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of Group I and Group II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination is separately usable. In the instant case, subcombinations writing unit of Group I and rewrite control unit of Group II have separate utility. Group I can calculate the number of display media that is connected to the control device, and Group II can be used to optimize display characteristics depending on the connection states of respective display mediums. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's election with traverse of Groups I and II in the reply filed on June 23rd, 2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the inventions are sufficiently related that a search for one would encompass a search for the other as well. This is not found persuasive because the inventions are in fact distinct and as stated in the above restriction the inventions are classified under two different subclasses.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-8 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Nakamura (US 2003/0020701).

Regarding independent **Claim 1**, Nakamura teaches a display control device (Nakamura, Figs. 1 and 14) comprising:

a connection unit for connecting a plurality of display media in which image information to be displayed can be written by an external input (Nakamura, Figs. 1 element 20 and 14 element 10);

a recognition unit for recognizing the number of display media connected to the connection units (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]); and

a writing unit for writing related information for writing the image information in the display media (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 22).

Regarding independent **Claim 16**, Nakamura teaches a computer (Nakamura, Fig. 14) comprising:

a storage unit for storing related information related to an image to be displayed on a display medium (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 19);

a receiving unit for receiving the number of the display media (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]); and

a transmission unit for transmitting the image information on the basis of the number for the display media received by the receiving unit and the image information stored in the storage unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 22, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]).

Regarding **Claim 2**, Nakamura further teaches that the display medium is detachably connected to the connection unit (Nakamura, Figs. 1 and 14).

Regarding **Claim 3**, Nakamura teaches that the display control device further comprises a detection unit for detecting that the display medium is connected to the connection unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]).

Regarding **Claim 4**, Nakamura further teaches that the recognition unit recognizes the number of display media by counting the number of display media detected by the detection unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]).

Regarding **Claim 5**, Nakamura further teaches that the connection unit is connected to each display medium by being brought into contact with the display medium (Nakamura, Fig. 14 elements 13 and 21).

Regarding **Claim 6**, Nakamura further teaches that the display media have connector elements, and the connection unit has a plurality of connection sections to be connected to the connector elements of the display media (Nakamura, Fig. 14 elements 13 and 21).

Regarding **Claims 7 and 8**, Nakamura further teaches that each display medium has a connection element, to which an input terminal and an output terminal are connected (Nakamura, Fig. 14 elements 13, 21 and 35),

the connection unit comprises a terminal pair for each connectable display medium, the terminal pair comprising a recognition signal supply terminal for outputting a recognition signal to the input terminal of the connection element and a recognition signal detection terminal for detecting a recognition signal from the output terminal of the connection element (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 35, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]), and

the recognition unit counts recognition signals at the recognition signal detection terminals of the connected unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]).

Regarding **Claim 11**, Nakamura further teaches that the display media are memory-type display media (Nakamura, Pg. 1 paragraphs [0001-0004]).

Regarding **Claim 12**, Nakamura teaches that the display control device further comprises a transmission unit for transmitting number information representing the number of display media recognized by the recognition unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 10, 19, 22 and 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]).

Regarding **Claim 13**, Nakamura teaches that the transmission unit transmits the number information to an external computer through a communication line. (Nakamura, Fig. 16, Pg. 6 element 22, paragraph [0107]).

Regarding **Claim 14**, Nakamura teaches a receiving unit for receiving image information related to an image to be displayed on the display medium from an external computer, wherein, on the basis of the image information received by the receiving unit and the number of display media recognized that the transmission unit transmits the number information to an external computer through a communication line. (Nakamura, Fig. 16, Pg. 6 element 22, paragraph [0107]).

Regarding **Claim 15**, Nakamura further teaches that the writing unit writes image information to be displayed on the display media as the related information (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura (US 2003/0020701).

Regarding **Claim 9**, Nakamura teaches that the connection unit is connected to the display media by wireless infrared communication without being in contact with the display media (Nakamura, Pg. 8 paragraph [0137]). Nakamura fails to teach that the wireless communication is by radio communication. The examiner takes official notice that radio communication is well known in the wireless art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use radio communication instead of infrared communication in order to achieve long-range connections.

Regarding **Claim 10**, Nakamura teaches that the display media have identification numbers, which can be given and received by wireless communication (Nakamura, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]), and the recognition unit counts the number of connected display media (Nakamura, Pg. 8 paragraph [0137]). Nakamura fails to teach that the display media have RFIDs representing pieces of unique information and that the recognition counts the RFIDs. The examiner takes official notice that RFIDs are well

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known in the art for the purposes of security. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add RFIDs to the display media of Nakamura in order to provide a method of secure data transmission, the combined teachings thereof would also teach that each RFIDs represents unique information as defined by the RFID standards and that the RFIDs would be counted because the recognition unit of display system already counts the display media.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ke Xiao whose telephone number is (571) 272-7776. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

August 29th, 2006 - kx -


SUMATI LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER